

American Government Classes and MGA Library Celebrate Constitution Day in Cochran

By Dr. Grace Adams-Square



The celebration of Constitution Day has been a long tradition of Dr. Adams-Square since her time at Towson University and has continued at Middle Georgia State University.

In 1997, Louise Leigh, a retired medical technologist in California, started her own grassroots campaign to have Congress recognize Constitution Day as its own national holiday. Leigh was concerned about a general lack of constitutional literacy. “I spoke on university campuses and schools and service clubs and realized how little people knew about the Constitution,” Leigh, who was then 91 years old, told *The Los Angeles Times* in 2005 (Bomboy, 2023).

Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia added language to an omnibus bill passed by Congress in December 2004 that established the event observed today. Under 36 U.S. Code § 106, Constitution Day and Citizenship Day became a combined event that also can be held on a different date if Sept. 17 falls on a weekend. The law also requires that “each educational institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17 of such year for the students served by the educational institution.” (Bomboy, 2023).

The students on the Cochran campus in two American Government classes under the direction of Dr. Adams-Square began planning in August to celebrate Constitution Day on Monday, September 16, 2024. Each class was divided into 5 groups to create Constitution Day activities. Activities included Jeopardy, Risk it, KA-Pong and live interviews.



Two collaborations to help make the Cochran campus Constitution Day a success included Ashley B. Thompson, Coordinator of Campus Culture & Community Office of Campus Culture & Community & Hope D. Fuqua-Duskin, Student Services Coordinator Welch Hall, Cochran Campus Office of Student Life. Their combined

efforts brought a festive atmosphere to Constitution Day with music, food and positive energy (pictured on top of first page)

This celebration is usually held outside the Georgia Hall but due to impending inclement weather the celebration took place inside Georgia Hall in the President's Dining room. Sitting outside the Presidents' Dining Room was a Voter Registration table manned by two of the Cochran Librarian Liaisons Jessica Williams and Ann Williams. Both Jessica and Ann were deputized in Cochran to register new voters. Ann and Jessica were interested in combining Constitution Day with the registration drive. Their table was beautiful, outstanding, organized and informative.



We always say a picture is worth a thousand words. The remaining report will showcase the efforts of the American Government Classes on the Cochran Campus.









Constitution Day Report: Jeopardy Game by student Tom Foster

As a group, in the early stages of the project, we decided to host a Jeopardy game, as it would be both informational and entertaining. I wanted the game to be held indoors in the Presidential Suite in Georgia Hall, which I felt would be a great space to host with TVs, speakers, and a very welcoming environment. I asked each group member to come up with five questions each and a category of their choosing. I then arranged the difficulty of these questions to align with the Jeopardy point system and input them into playfactile.com. I believed it was essential to have good prizes to draw in participants for the game. As a residence assistant who runs many of these events each semester, it has become clear that people are only interested when there is competition and food or prizes available. I then asked Stewart if we could create a sweet board with candy prizes, which he did a fantastic job on. The night before Constitution Day, I designed flyers and taped them to the Georgia Hall entrance and Presidential Suite door. I used the makerspace at Robert's Memorial Library to create a large poster with the help of Mr. Brigmond, who was excellent. I also printed handouts with QR codes encouraging students to register to vote